



Come,
inherit the
kingdom,
prepared
for you

MATTHEW 25:34

Christ Lutheran Community Church

Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2020

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEMES OF THE DAY

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

THE GATHERING

Gather in prayer and prepare to receive God's Word.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

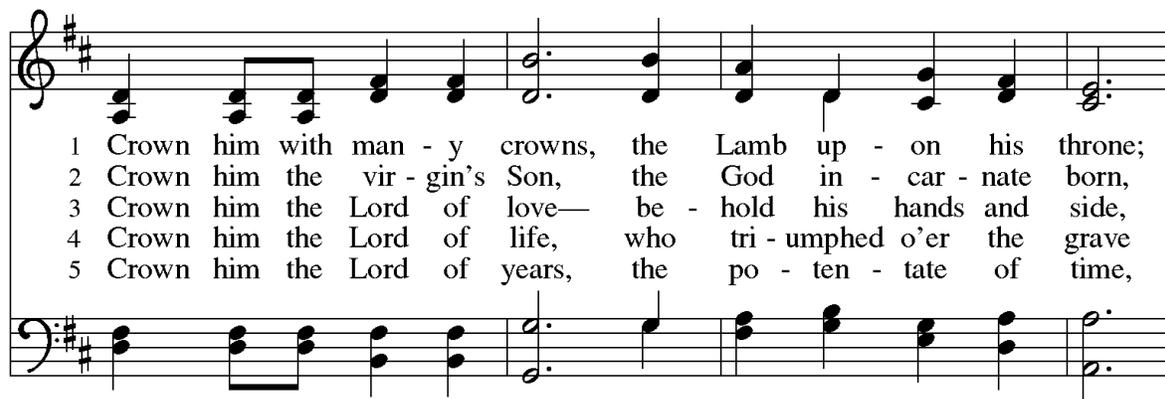
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

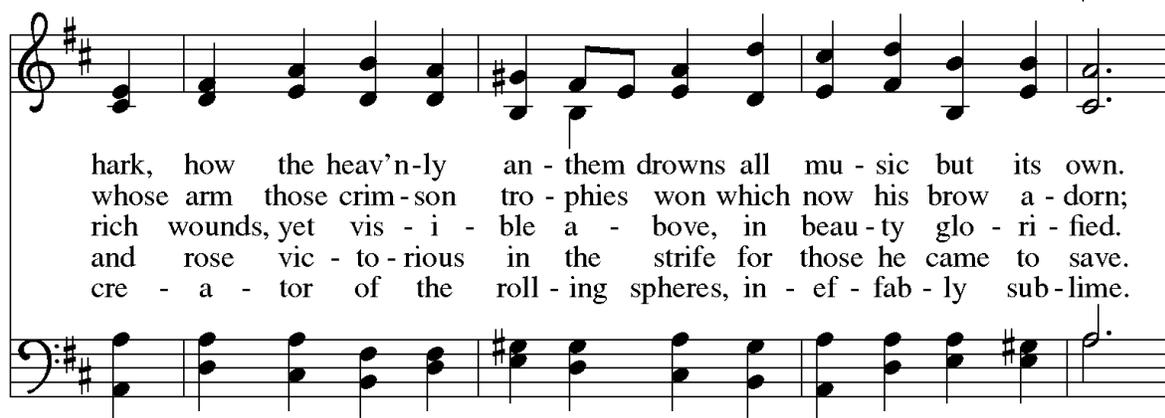
Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

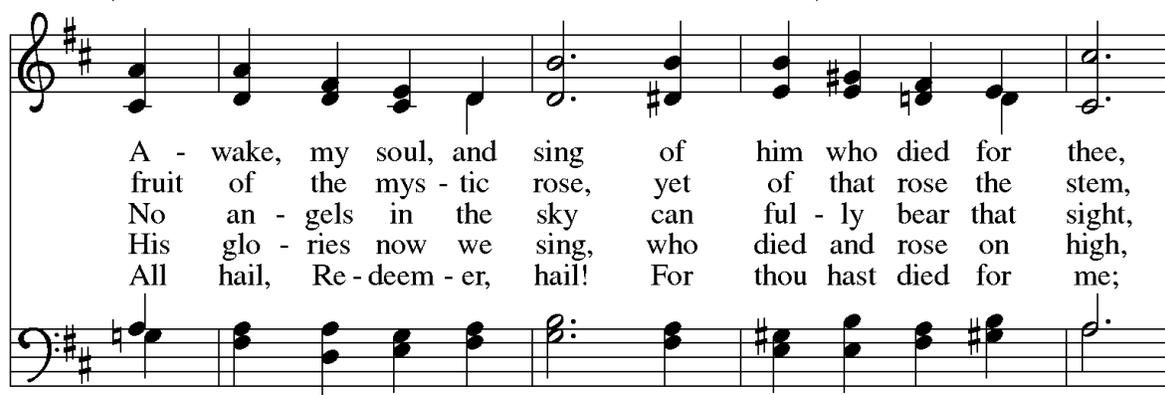
Crown Him with Many Crowns



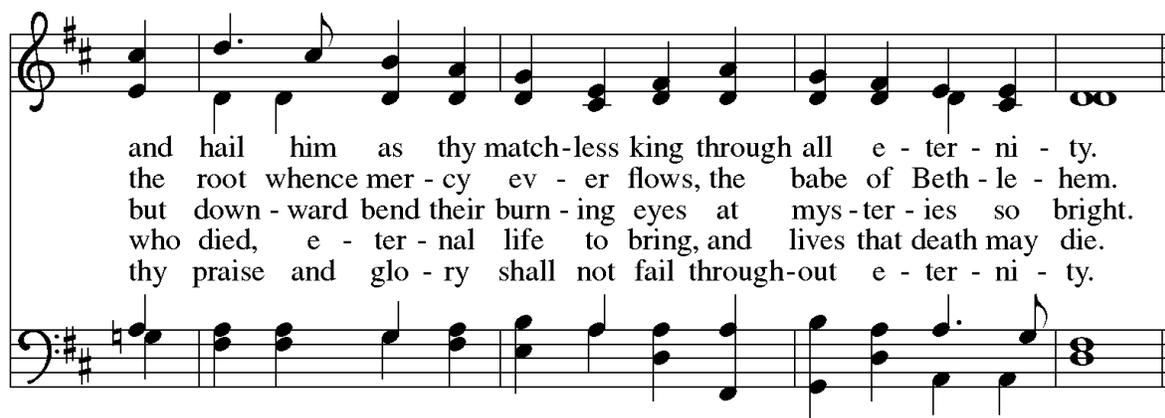
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

We several scriptures each Sunday. The Old Testament parallels the themes of the Gospel reading. The New Testament is chosen from the earliest letters of the church.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between

the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 93

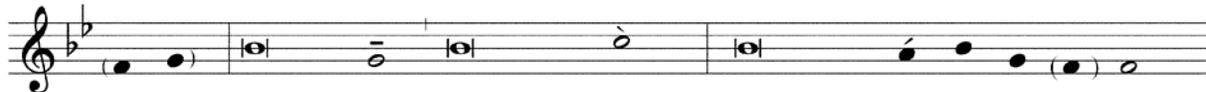
Psalm 93: The Lord Is King for Evermore

Antiphon



Text: Psalm 93; The Grail
Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB
© 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Psalm Tone



Music: Psalm tone 8-g; acc. by Richard Proulx

¹ The Lord is king, with majesty enrōbed;
the Lord is robed with might,
and girded rōund with power.

⁴ Greater than the roar of mighty watērs,
more glorious than the surgings of the sēa,
the Lord is glōrious on high.

The world you made firm, not to be mōved;
² your throne has stood firm from of òld.
From all eternitý, O Lord, you are.

⁵ Truly your decrees are to be trustēd.
Holiness is fitting to your hòuse,
O Lord, untíl the end of time.

³ The waters have lifted up, O Lōrd,
the waters have lifted up their vōice,
the waters have lifted úp their thunder.

Give glory to the Father Almighty,
to his Son, Jesus Christ, the Lōrd,
to the Spirit who dwélls in our hearts.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

By tradition, we stand during the readings of the Gospels, remembering that they speak of Christ, who is the center of our faith.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia.

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

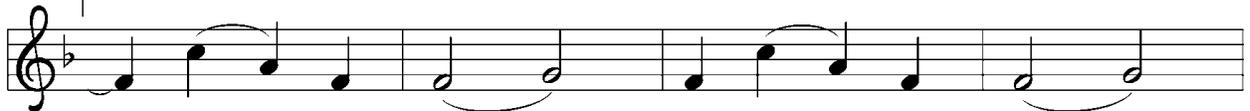


soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Having heard the news of God's liberating power, we ask for God's salvation for all the world.

On this the last Sunday of the church year, let us pray to see God's reign in the church, in the world, and with all in need, responding to each petition with the words "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

A brief silence.

Great God, we praise you for sustaining the church through another year of grace. Continue to shepherd your people with your tender care. Sustain the social ministries of the body of Christ, and increase ecumenical sharing of opportunities for ministry.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain the world that you have made, the heights of the hills, the seas and the dry land. Guard the animals during the winter months, and direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all. Be a source of strength and refuge for all weathering severe storms.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, that your reign may be honored throughout the world. Be with the people of Armenia, Ethiopia, and Hong Kong. Bless the work of the United Nations and of agencies that promote the wellbeing of all peoples.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring a peaceful conclusion to the American national elections. Bless all the newly elected officials with a love of concord and a desire for justice. Turn us away from historic prejudices, and show us your image in each of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Visit American homes on Thanksgiving Day. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to you for your perpetual blessings.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We beg you to end the earth's pandemic. Bring healing to the millions who are suffering from the coronavirus – any who are sick, dying, despairing, isolated, unemployed, and all exhausted medical workers. Guide researchers in developing a vaccine.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show your loving power to all who are in need.

Equip us to feed the hungry, to provide clean water for the thirsty, to welcome the stranger, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, to visit the prisoners. We pray especially for Pat, Louise, Barbara, Howard, George, Nettie, Bruce, Richard, Eveline, Bill, Carrie, Darryl, Penny, Mary Ellen, Rene, Tony, Joan, Will, Val, Ken, Paul, Derrick, Ron, Elizabeth, Deborah and her family, and others we name, aloud and in our hearts:

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We appeal to you, Sovereign God, we who are like both the sheep and the goats, and we ask that in compassion you will hear the prayers of our own hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for all the saints who have died in the faith. At the end of all things, bring us together with all the saints into your kingdom of joy.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O triune God: Father of glory, Lord Jesus Christ, and Spirit of wisdom, now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

We share Christ's peace with each other.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

The ministries of this congregation rely on the gifts God bestows upon us through our members and friends. Contributions can be made through our website, www.ChristUD.org, by mailing in your gift, or by initiating a transfer through your bank.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

O Holy One of wisdom, throughout human history and today among us here, you call us to walk the paths of justice and peace. We praise you, O God of truth, for your precious words. Grant that sheltered under their richness as under the tree of life, we live in gratitude and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, your Word and our Wisdom, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now we pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE SENDING

Having been fed by the life-giving Word of God, we are sent into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ, continuing his ministry of healing, forgiveness, liberation, and reconciliation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN AND MUSICAL RESPONSE

Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share God's love for all the world.

Thanks be to God.

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